UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/SYMP.TE/PC/L.1
30 June 1994

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON TRADE EFFICIENCY
Preparatory Committee
Geneva, 27 June 1994
Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE EFFICIENCY

on its session, held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 27 June to 1 July 1994

Rapporteur: Mr. A. Brahime (Morocco)

CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs
	Introduction	1 - 4
I.	Consideration of guidelines on key sectors for trade efficiency: customs, transport, banking and insurance, business information for trade, business practices, and telecommunications (agenda item 4)	5 - 6
II.	Consideration of the draft Columbus Ministerial Declaration on trade Efficiency (agenda item 5) . .	7 - 8
III.	Matters relating to the organization of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (agenda item 6)	-
IV.	Organizational matters	9 - 13

GE.94-52733

INTRODUCTION

1. At its third session, held from 2 to 11 May 1994, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency recommended to the Trade and Development Board that a preparatory committee be established in order to prepare for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, from 17 to 21 October 1994. At the resumed second part of its fortieth session, on 27 May 1994, the Trade and Development Board endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

2. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency met at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 27 June to 1 July 1994.

3. In the course of its session, the Preparatory Committee held two plenary meetings and ... informal meetings.

Introductory statement

4. The Head of the Special Programme on Trade Efficiency, speaking on behalf of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, said that the Symposium was a crucial event that would enable ministers to give new impetus to the work done by UNCTAD. It would provide the basis for a new era in international trade, in which the smallest and the poorest would become parties to modern international trade, and efficiency would be the catalyst of equality. The Symposium would provide an unprecedented opportunity for trade ministers to tackle areas where immediate results were possible, and it was the subject of growing enthusiasm.

Chapter I

CONSIDERATION OF GUIDELINES ON KEY SECTORS FOR TRADE EFFICIENCY: CUSTOMS, TRANSPORT, BANKING AND INSURANCE, BUSINESS INFORMATION FOR TRADE, BUSINESS PRACTICES, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda item 4)

5. For its consideration of this item, the Preparatory Committee had before it the following documentation:

"Draft recommendations for Governments" (TD/B/40(2)/L.6, annex IV);

"Draft recommendations not considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency" (TD/SYMP.TE/PC/2).

6. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 27 June 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided to pursue its consideration of item 4 in informal meetings.

[To be completed]

Chapter II

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT COLUMBUS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON TRADE EFFICIENCY

(Agenda item 5)

7. For its consideration of this item, the Preparatory Committee had before it the following documentation:

"Draft Columbus ministerial declaration on trade efficiency" (TD/B/40(2)/L.6, annex V).

8. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 27 June 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided to pursue its consideration of item 5 in informal meetings.

[To be completed]

Chapter III

MATTERS RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRADE EFFICIENCY

(Agenda item 6)

[To be completed]

Chapter IV

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

9. The session of the Preparatory Committee was opened on 27 June 1994 by Mrs. E. Shelton (United States of America), Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 27 June 1994, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency on 11 May 1994, as endorsed by the Trade and Development Board on 27 May 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided that the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group should serve as the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

11. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee was thus as follows:

Chairperson:	Mrs. E. Shelton	(United States of America)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. A.-R. Al Sohaibani	(Saudi Arabia)
	Mr. E. Dreyfous	(France)
	Mr. M. Mangachi	(United Republic of Tanzania)
	Mr. J. Perez Gabilondo	(Argentina)
	Mr. Y. Afanassiev	(Russian Federation)
Rapporteur:	Mr. A. Brahime	(Morocco)

C. Adoption of the rules of procedure

(Agenda item 2)

12. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 27 June 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided that its rules of procedure should be, mutatis mutandis, those of the Trade and Development Board.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 3)

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 27 June 1994, the Preparatory Committee adopted its provisional agenda (TD/SYMP.TE/PC/1), as follows:

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. Consideration of guidelines on key sectors for trade efficiency: customs, transport, banking and insurance, business information for trade, business practices, and telecommunications

5. Consideration of the draft Columbus Ministerial Declaration on Trade Efficiency

6. Matters relating to the organization of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

7. Other business

8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency.

E. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

(Agenda item 8)

[To be completed]

UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
LIMITED

TD/SYMP.TE/PC/L.2
12 August 1994

Original: ENGLISH

Preparations for the United Nations
~~International Symposium on Trade Efficiency~~
Intergovernmental Meeting of Trade Point
Officials and Experts*
Geneva, 6 September 1994

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Overview of the Trade Point Programme (presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat)

2. Evaluation of Trade Points (UNCTAD secretariat, Trade Point officials and experts)

3. Technical issues (networking/choice of carriers, communication, information/databases/format, equipment, others)

4. Legal and institutional issues (Trade Efficiency Associations, International Federation of TEAs, others)

5. Preparation of the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE):

   (a) Lists of invitees and level of acceptances for each of the four segments;
   (b) Attendance of representatives of Trade Points;
   (c) Importance of the Symposium for the future of Trade Points;
   (d) Trade Point leaflet.

6. Other business

* Note: This meeting is expected to contribute to a better use of the experience of Trade Points by the different segments of the Symposium; at the same time, it should allow Trade Point Officials and Experts to better assess the importance of the Symposium for their practical operations and future strategy. This meeting will therefore not reopen any of the documents or decisions adopted by the Symposium Preparatory Committee, and it will not make any decision regarding choices to be made by Trade Points individually or collectively,including on the particular equipment or services they should use.